

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIE-00 AID-05 PC-01 SS-15 SP-02

NSC-05 VO-03 SCA-01 PPT-01 L-02 A-01 PER-01 H-01

CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 IO-10 /074 W

----- 121596

R 151457Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6844

INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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DEPT PLEASE PASS USIA, USAID, ACTION, AND ALL AF DIPLO-
MATIC POSTS.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS NI

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN ENTRY VISAS

1. ACQUISITION OF NIGERIAN VISAS OFTEN INVOLVES EXCESSIVE DELAYS
AND IS A SOURCE OF UNDERSTANDABLE FRUSTRATION AND EXASPERATION.
IN AN EFFORT TO FIND SOME WAY OF ALLEVIATING THE SITUATION, OUR
CONSULAR SECTION HAS DISCUSSED THE VISA SYSTEM WITH NIGERIAN
AUTHORITIES HERE AND HAS BEEN TOLD THAT NIGERIAN EMBASSIES HAVE
AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE OR DENY VISA APPLICATIONS FOR VISITS OF
LESS THAN THREE MONTHS WITHOUT REFERRAL TO LAGOS. THIS WAS
ALLEGED TO BE WITHOUT EXCEPTION, BUT WE DOUBT IT. IN ANY EVENT,
MANY NIGERIAN EMBASSIES ARE APPARENTLY UNAWARE OF (OR PERHAPS
UNWILLING TO EXERCISE) THIS AUTHORITY. ADDRESSEE POSTS WHERE
NIGERIAN EMBASSIES ARE LOCATED MIGHT USEFULLY EXPLORE THIS MATTER
WITH THEM AND REPORT THEIR REACTIONS. RESPONSES WOULD BE HELPFUL
TO US AS WE SEEK TO CLARIFY POSITIONS ON BOTH ENDS OF THE LINE.

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2. MEANWHILE, SITUATION CONTINUES THAT TRANSIT VIAS AT AIRPORTS AND OVERLAND ENTRY POINTS ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO HOLDERS OF REGULAR PASSPORTS. TRANSIT VISAS VALID FOR 48 HOURS ARE THEORETICALLY AVAILABLE TO DIPLOMATIC HOLDERS ON DISCRETIONARY BASIS. BUT WE STRONGLY ADVISE AGAINST RELIANCE ON DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY OF IMMIGRATION OFFICERS, EVEN WITH ADVANCE WARNING TO THIS EMBASSY AS COMMUNICATION WITH THE AIRPORT IS MOST UNRELIABLE, AND RESULTS OF ANY REPRESENTATION WOULD BE UNPREDICTABLE. STATUS OF OFFICIAL PASSPORT HOLDERS IS UNCERTAIN. POSTS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT NIGERIAN AUTHORITIES ARE GENERALLY UNRECEPTIVE AND OFTEN RESENTFUL OF EMBASSY EFFORTS EXPEDITE OR INFLUENCE DECISIONS IN VISA CASES. WE WILL OF COURSE CONTINUE TO MAKE INQUIRIES AS APPROPRIATE REGARDING APPLICATIONS BY HOLDERS DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL PASSPORTS AND OTHERS IN WHOM THERE IS U.S. GOVERNMENT INTEREST, BUT THERE IS LITTLE GUARANTEE AS TO EFFICACY OF SUCH EFFORTS.

3. AS AN ASIDE, WE HAVE BEEN INFORMALLY ADVISED THAT BEARERS OF REGULAR PASSPORTS WITH SOUTH AFRICAN ENTRIES MAY BE REFUSED ENTRY INTO

NIGERIA.
REINHARDT

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ALL AF DIPLOMATIC POSTS.

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